

# Moscow Responds to British Provocations

Speaking Sept. 3 to students at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO), where future diplomats and foreign-region specialists are trained, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov used a line from Shakespeare like a rapier in thrusting at Britain, whose current policy is to provoke a Russian-U.S. confrontation by any and all means.

“Do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe?” Lavrov asked London, quoting Hamlet’s ironical challenge to the scheming agent Guildenstern. “Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot play upon me.” Lavrov alluded to the continuing campaign to blame the Kremlin for the death of former spy Alexander Litvinenko in London last year, as well as Britain’s sheltering of “certain odious individuals,” like the fugitive tycoon Boris Berezovsky, who has vowed to bring Russian President Vladimir Putin down. “It [London] expected in earnest to get the right to press buttons in Russia’s domestic politics . . . [and] became a party to intrigues and provocations against Russia,” Lavrov said.

The same speech was noteworthy for continuing to emphasize the potential for a U.S.-Russian concert of action, in the spirit of the July talks Putin held with President George Bush and his father at Kennebunkport, in favor of stability. Lavrov cited remarks by Brent Scowcroft, the former National Security Advisor in a Republican administration, along similar lines.

Outlets for leading circles of the British oligarchy continue to demonstrate that Lyndon LaRouche is right in warning that such British circles are hell-bent on driving a wedge between the United States and Russia, particularly after Kennebunkport. Unwilling to rely only on assets inside the Bush Administration, like Vice President Dick Cheney, to kill a potential Russian-American partnership, the British have orchestrated a string of provocations, aimed at forging a new Cold War climate, pitting Russia against the West. The expulsion of Russian diplomats and the ongoing diplomatic sparring in connection with the Litvinenko investigation are part of the picture. In its Aug. 25-31 edition, the London *Economist* added a volley of propaganda for a new East-West split, with a scathing attack on Putin’s Russia.

Without once mentioning the U.S.-Russian relationship, the *Economist* devoted its cover story to “Putin’s people—the spies who run Russia,” promoting the idea that Russia is under the control of Chekists (Soviet-era intelligence officers), allied with the Russian Orthodox Church, who have grabbed the reins of power, and the country’s financial and raw materials wealth. In particular, Putin’s men have stripped the Yeltsin-era oligarchs (“mostly Jews,” said the *Economist*) of their



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*Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov quoted Hamlet to London, in response to British provocations: “Do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot play upon me.”*

wealth and power, and consolidated state control over the media, industry, and the vast energy sector. The *Economist* laid down the line against Putin and company: “What motivates these so-called *siloviki* (strong men)?” Revenge and greed, the *Economist* alleged. “But,” it added “the new elite also has an ideology of sorts. They see the break-up of the Soviet Union as, in Mr. Putin’s words, the ‘greatest geopolitical catastrophe’ of the 20th century. Capitalising on a widespread sense that Russia has been humiliated, they want to create as mighty a state as the Soviet Union once was. They see the West as a foe bent on stopping them.”

The *Economist*’s line is that the hooligan tactics of the ex-KGB apparatus now in power under Putin cannot succeed in the long term, and that Russia’s economy will sink if it remains long in the hands of the Chekists, who have no experience managing large corporations or a modern economy.

## Arrests in Russia

Moscow’s response to the British campaign is not limited to diplomatic remarks such as Lavrov’s. Russian officials moved at the end of August, to shift the course of events around major criminal cases that have been a focus of foreign press attacks on the Putin regime’s brutality.

On Aug. 26, Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika announced the arrest of ten people in connection with the Oct. 7, 2006 Moscow murder of investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya. She had been a leading critic of Russia's Chechen policy and of President Putin. Much of the British press has long suggested that Putin was behind her murder.

Chaika said the mastermind of Politkovskaya's murder was the Chechen-born leader of a Moscow organized-crime group, who is currently abroad. Among the ten persons detained, Chaika added, "Unfortunately, one former and one serving police official, and an officer from the Federal Security Bureau (FSB) participated in surveillance and intelligence-gathering on Politkovskaya," he said. "They have also been arrested." (A week later, elements of the case announced by Chaika were in question, as some of those arrested were released, and the senior investigating officer was replaced.)

### Lugovoy Charges British Plot

Andrei Lugovoy, the man London accuses of having killed Litvinenko on orders from Putin, gave a news conference Aug. 29 to accuse the highest levels of the British state and government of concocting a campaign of lies against him and the Russian President. Lugovoy charged that Berezovsky was involved in the crime, as well as in the murder of Politkovskaya. "It was a thoroughly planned provocation," he told the press, "I believe there was to have been the chain 'Politkovskaya-

Litvinenko-Tregubova' [journalist Yelena Tregubova]."

Chaika also began to link Politkovskaya's murder to others. He said it was connected with the murder of *Forbes* Moscow editor Paul Klebnikov, son-in-law of Wall Street banker and intelligence operative John Train. Taking the statements of Lugovoy and Chaika together, these Russian sources are beginning to present the Litvinenko-Politkovskaya-Klebnikov crimes as a single British operation, involving Chechen gangs and Berezovsky.

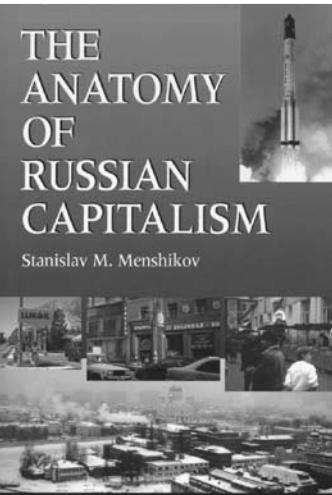
### LaRouche Urges Caution on Speculation

On Aug. 30, Lyndon LaRouche urged caution in attempting to sort out the complicated circumstances surrounding the murders of Klebnikov, Politkovskaya, and others. LaRouche was responding to reports from several well-placed U.S. intelligence sources, who said that some of the journalists who have been lionized by the John Train Foundation and like-minded Anglo-American spook circles, were not, during their lifetimes, necessarily "Train salon" assets. The sources singled out Klebnikov and Politkovskaya, in particular.

Politkovskaya received a John Train "civil courage" award shortly before her murder, and the British media, led by the *Economist*, have tried repeatedly to link her assassination to her critical coverage of Putin. Sources who pointed out that Politkovskaya worked on many different stories during her career and up to the moment of her death, also pointed out that such simple linkages are always wrong. Klebnikov, killed in Moscow in July 2004, had devoted much of his work to exposing the Chechen separatists. Klebnikov was married to John Train's daughter, but the sources cautioned that this does not automatically make him part of Train's projects. One of the last projects of the respected editor Klebnikov, who earlier had written an exposé of Berezovsky, was an interview and profile of Khojmuhammed Nukhayev, a Chechen financier whose deep business connections with operatives in former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's circles were notorious.

LaRouche emphasized that such cautionary notes are of particular importance at this moment, given the British oligarchy's campaign to drive a wedge between the United States and Russia. In the words of a senior U.S. intelligence official, if the U.S.-Russian strategic partnership, proposed by Putin at Kennebunkport, is adopted as U.S. policy, it will lead to continental Europe also opening up deeper collaboration with Russia—and "this will finish off the British." LaRouche agreed, emphasizing that the U.S.-Russia partnership is an existential issue for the Anglo-Dutch oligarchy, and they will go to any length to stop it.

Sensitive issues, like the Politkovskaya and Klebnikov murders, in this context, must be treated with a cautionary note. LaRouche said: "Follow the facts of the cases, but do not jump to hasty conclusions. Just because John Train tries to exploit these two murders for an Anglo-Dutch 'new Cold War' political agenda does not mean that people have to be stupid enough to take it at face value."



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